

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

5 The Department of Defense (DoD) demilitarization workload is increasing as a result of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties (START and START II), as well as the overall arms reduction goals of the military. Construction and maintenance of new storage magazines to accommodate the large rocket motors being removed from service would be extremely expensive, but more importantly, it is safer to treat these motors rather than store them and risk the possibility of an accidental ignition (e.g., by fire or lightning strikes).

10 As a result of the increasing demilitarization workload, the Air Force has been asked to treat the Navy's first and second stage Trident I (C-4) rocket motors at the existing thermal treatment unit (TTU) at Utah Test and Training Range-North (UTTR-North). Each Trident first stage motor contains approximately 38,900 pounds net explosive weight (NEW) of Class 1.1 propellant and each second stage motor contains approximately 17,460 pounds NEW of Class 1.1 propellant.

15 Current operations at the TTU include treatment of the Navy's Poseidon (C-3) second stage rocket motors by open detonation (OD). Each Poseidon second stage motor contains approximately 15,860 pounds NEW of Class 1.1 propellant. Up to two motors are detonated per treatment event. The TTU is currently the only DoD facility capable of handling missile motors greater than 10,000 pounds
20 NEW of Class 1.1 propellant.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of no Significant Impact (FONSI) were prepared for the treatment of the Poseidon second stage motors at the TTU (Dames & Moore, 1994). However, treatment of the Poseidon second stage rocket motors is scheduled to be complete by the end
25 of 1999. The purpose of this updated EA is to evaluate the potential impacts to the environment associated with treating larger amounts of Class 1.1 propellant by OD at the TTU, up to 42,000 pounds NEW per treatment event, once the Poseidon workload is complete.

30 The TTU at UTTR-North was selected for treatment of the Poseidon rocket motors by the OD method based on the site and technology selection criteria developed for the Poseidon EA. Because the TTU still meets all the selection criteria, and because OD is still the only reliable, proven, and available treatment method that meets all the technology selection criteria, this was the only alternative considered in this updated EA, other than the no-action alternative.

35 Under the proposed action, the potential impacts of greatest concern include noise, air quality, and health and safety issues. Impacts to the physical environment, which include surface water, groundwater, geology and soils, and wetlands, would not be significant. Noise impacts from missile treatment have been successfully mitigated by not conducting operations when noise modeling predicts noise levels to be greater than 134 dB at off-site receptors. The same practices of modeling would be
40 conducted for the proposed action; therefore, noise impacts are not expected to be significant. Air modeling conducted for the proposed TTU operations has indicated that only minimal increases in pollutant emissions would occur. Neither ambient air quality standards nor prevention of significant (PSD) increments would be exceeded as a result of the proposed detonation activities. No changes to health and safety considerations are expected as a result of treating up to 42,000 pounds NEW Class 1.1
45 propellant per detonation event. Existing health and safety procedures would be followed.

Under the no-action alternative, no significant adverse impacts would be expected. However, if increasing the demilitarization workload resulted in stockpiles of munitions, safety concerns associated with storage of large missile motors, as well as possible START violations, could result.